**Decline in Sex Ratio**

1004. SHRI RAJUBHAI A. PARMAR: SHRI SUSHILKUMAR SAMBHAJIRAO SHINDE: SHRIMATI VEENA VERMA:

Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the sex ratio which was 970 females par 1000 males in 1901 has declined to 927 females per 1000 males in 1991;

(b) if so, the latast estimated sex ratio in India;

(c) whether any study has been made to determine the main reasons responsible for the declining sex ratio;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(a) what steps have been and are being taken to improve the ratio?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI SALEEM IQBAL SHERVANI): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. the Sex-ratio which was 972 in 1901 has declined to 927 in 1991, which is the latest available information.

(c) and (d) Studies conducted in 9 States inter-alia reveal the main reasons as strong son preference, low level of female education, socio, economic factors and low age of marriage resulting in increased risk in pregnancy and child birth.

(e) Detection and selective abortion of female foetuses has been made illegal in the country from 1st January, 1996 under the Pre-natal diagnostic Techniques (Reg ulation and Prevention of Misuse) Act, 1994. Various programmes of action and advocacy are being implemented by the Government in the country for the de velopment of women and girl child. At tempts are also being made- to project positive images of girl child so as to bring about changes in social attitudes towards them. The Government has also initiated a media campaign to generate awareness on various issues relating to girl child.

**Efforts to make Programmes of Urdu Service of Air Audible**

1005. SHRI MAULANA OBAIDUL-LAH KHAN AZMI: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCAST ING pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the programme of Urdu Service of All India Radio are extremely popular in the country;

(b) whether it is also a fact that the programmes are not properly audible in many parts of the country; and

(c) if so, the steps being taken to make the programmes properly audible in all parts of the country?

THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI CM. IBRAHIM: (a) The programme of Urdu Service of All India Radio are popular in North India and some parts of the north-west.

(b) and (c) Even though the Urdu Service of All India Radio is primarily targetted for audience across the Western border of the country, it is clearly audible in the Northern and North-Western part of the country also. Moreover, most of the regional Kendras have their own component of Urdu Progrmmes. National Channel of All India Radio has also a 25-minute daily programme in Urdu.

**Finding Enquiry reports of SEBI regarding issue of Duplicate Shares**

1006. SHRI ASHOK MITRA: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to refer to the answer to Unstarred Ques tion 1179 given in the Rajya Sabha on 12th March, 1996, and state:

(a) the measures Governemnt proposes to adopt in the light of landings of enquiry report of SEBI in the matter of issue of millions of duplicate shares by the Reliance Group of Industries; and

(b) whether the reports suggest the need for major changes in the structure and mode of operations of the Unit Trust of India and other major public financial institutions?